

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03943 120641Z
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 VO-03 CA-01 CIAE-00
INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 L-03 DEAE-00 AID-05 SS-15
/064 W
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R 120130Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8517
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
US MISSION GENEVA 377

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3943

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, SN
SUBJECT: LEAP DAL REFUGEES REJECT THAI AMNESTY OFFER

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 6226 B. STATE 211061

1. REPRESENTATIVES TAY AND SINGH OF ASIAN CONFERENCE OF RELIGION
AND PEACE (ACRP), VISITED EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 8 IN APPEAL TO GAIN U.S.G.

ACCEPTANCE OF LEAP DAL REFUGEES.

2. THEIR PITCH WAS THE SAME AS SUGGESTED BY UNHCR REP. SAMPTKUMAR
(REF A) THATNTHE PROBLEM WAS A U.S. RESPONSIBILITY. THEY PRESENTED
ANOTHER "BOAT PEOPLE" LETTER, ENTITLED THE "LAST DITCH", WHICH
ERRONEOUSLY STATED THAT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE THAI AND U.S.G. WAS
MADE FOR THE REFUGEES TO FLY TO BANGKOK FOR INCLUSION IN THE PAROLE
PROGRAM FOR 8000.

3. THEY WERE INFORMED BY CONOFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF B THAT THE
PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE
REFUGEES, THE UNHCR AND THEIR OWN GOOD OFFICES.

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4. ALTHOUGH, TAY AND SINGH ARE APPARENTLY VERY CONCERNED ABOUT
ADVERSE PUBLICITY FOR THE ACRP, THEIR EFFORTS TO DATE TO ENCOURAGE
THE REFUGEES TO LEAVE HAVE BEEN TO SUSPEND FOOD SHIPMENTS TO THE
SHIP FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS, A REQUEST TO THE GOM TO TOW THE
VESSEL OUT TO SEA WHICH WAS REFUSED, AND A CALL AT THE THAI
EMBASSY SINGAPORRE TO REQUEST THW REFUGEES BE ASSURED THEY WILL

BE WELCOME IN THAILAND.

5. THEY FURTHER DESCRIBED THE WORSENING CONDITION OF THE LEAP
DAL AND DRAMATIZED THE SITUATION ABOARD AS SPARKING SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

AMONG THE REFUGEES WHO MAY DECIDE TO TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES IN
PROTEST IF NOT ACCEPTED BY THE U.S.

6. IN RESPONSE TO THE ACRP REQUEST THE THAI AMBASSADOR TO
SINGAPORE PHONED AMBASSADOR MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 9 TO SAY HE HAD
CONVEYED ASSURANCES TO LEAP DAL REFUGEES THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE
PROSECUTED BY RTG IF THEY RETURNED TO THAILAND. HE HAD VERIFIED
THIS BY CHECKING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BANGKOK. ACCORDING TO
THAI AMBASSADOR, REFUGEES HAD DISMISSED TMESE ASSURANCES, SAYING
THEY WOULD REFUSE TO MOVE UNTIL THEY HAD ASSURANCES THEY WOULD
BE ABLE TO GO TO U.S. THAI AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THAT WE COULD
OFFER NO SUCH ASSURANCES, AND THAT LEAP DAL REFUGEES COULD BE
GIVEN NO PREFERENCE OVER OTHER REFUGEES UPON THEIR RETURN TO
CAMP IN THAILAND.

HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP03943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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